

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for remotely evaluating a condition of a vehicular part during a recycling process, comprising:

obtaining, from a vehicular dealer, description information regarding said condition of said vehicular part in an electronic folder;

sending, from a central server, said electronic folder including said description information to an assessment center;

receiving, in the central server, from said assessment center, the electronic folder updated with an assessment based on said description information, said electronic folder being modified at said assessment center to include said assessment, said assessment comprising a grade for the vehicular part; and

determining ~~whether a disposition of~~ said vehicular part ~~may be recycled~~ based on said grade of said assessment.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising at least one of the steps of mining data and generating reports for a plurality of vehicular parts and their assessment.

5. (Currently amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said data and reports are in such a format as to be compatible with internal data management systems of a party receiving said data and reports.

6. (Currently amended) The A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~determining whether disposing of~~ said vehicular part ~~may be recycled~~ comprises ~~determining at least one of a disposition discarding the vehicular part and~~ determining a warranty settlement for said vehicular part based on said assessment.

7. (Currently amended) The A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising at least one of the steps of mining data and generating reports for a plurality of vehicular parts and their assessment.

10. (Currently amended) A-The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said data and reports are in such a format as to be compatible with internal data management systems of a party receiving said data and reports.

11. (Currently amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of sending said vehicular part to a third party for at least one of repair and recycling.

12. (Currently amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising at least one of identifying and ordering missing materials required for a remanufacturing of said vehicular part based on said assessment details.

13. (Currently amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising automatically ordering said materials required for remanufacturing of said vehicular part.

14. (Currently amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vehicular dealer comprises an authorized representative of an original equipment manufacturer.

15. (Currently amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said assessment center comprises at least one of an independent assessing center, an original equipment manufacturer, and a warranty processing center.

16. (Currently amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing access to a party at a third location to said assessment details.

17. (Currently amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said party at said third location accesses said assessment details through an Internet web browser.

18. (Currently amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said party at said third location comprises an original equipment manufacturer.

19. (Currently amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising the step of producing data and reports for a plurality of vehicular parts and their assessment.

20. (Currently amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising the step of providing said data and reports in such a format as to be compatible with internal data management systems of a party receiving said data and reports.

21. to 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A data center used in a remote evaluation ~~of a condition of~~ a vehicular part ~~during a recycling process~~, said data center comprising:

a computer server adapted to communicate with a vehicular dealer and an assessment center, said computer server comprising:

input means for receiving, from said vehicular dealer, said electronic folder including said description information regarding ~~said condition of~~ said vehicular part ~~in an electronic folder~~;

output means for sending said description information to said assessment center; and

said input means for ~~further~~ receiving, from said assessment center, an assessment based on said description information, said assessment comprising a grade for the vehicular part, said electronic folder ~~being~~ having been modified at said assessment center to include said grade of said assessment ~~which is used in determining whether said vehicular part may be recycled~~; and

said output means for sending said electronic folder including said grade to the vehicular dealer where the grade will be used to determine the disposition of the vehicular part.

29. (Currently amended) TheA data center as claimed in claim 28, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) TheA data center as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a server database for storing at least a portion of said description information in said electronic folder.

32. (Currently amended) TheA data center as claimed in claim 28, wherein said computer server is further adapted to communicate with a third location and said output means further sends said assessment to said third location.

33. (Currently amended) TheA data center as claimed in claim 28, wherein said computer server is adapted to determine at least one of a disposition and a warranty settlement for said vehicular part based on said assessment.

34. (Currently amended) TheA data center as claimed in claim 33, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) TheA data center as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a server database for storing at least a portion of said description information in said electronic folder.

37. (Currently amended) TheA data center as claimed in claim 33, wherein said computer server is further adapted to communicate with a third location and said output means further sends said assessment to said third location.

38. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising selecting an assessment center based on the description information.

39. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising printing a shipping label based identifying a destination identified in the disposing step.

40. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising adding an event-

driven status indicator to the electronic folder for tracking the progress of a claim concerning the vehicular part.

41. (New) A method for remotely evaluating a vehicular part, comprising:

- inputting, at a vehicular dealer, description information regarding the vehicular part in an electronic folder;

- sending the electronic folder including the description information to an assessment center;

- receiving the sent electronic folder at the assessment center;

- modifying the sent electronic folder at the assessment center to include an assessment based on said description information, the assessment comprising a grade for the vehicular part;

- receiving the modified electronic folder at the vehicular dealer; and

- disposing of the vehicular part, at the vehicular dealer, based on the grade of the assessment.